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Hind raises CIA office issue again

The question of whether the CIA maintains a Schenectady office has been raised again by Rick Hind, the Liberal Party candidate for the 28th Congressional District.

At a press conference Monday, Hind charged his opponent, Democrat Rep. Samuel S. Stratton, with "doing nothing," since Hind first raised the issue of a CIA presence in 1975.

Stratton could not be reached for comment about the charges. The 10-term incumbent defeated Hind by a 4 to 1 margin in the September primary.

When he originally "discovered" the CIA office in 1975, the then-director of the Schenectady Peace Center took reporters to an office marked "H.M. Smith, Associates" at 650 Franklin St. to "expose" the CIA. There, Hind spoke to a man who locked the door behind him, and stood in the hall and refused to answer questions about the purpose of the office, or explain why it was not listed in the building directory.

Returning to the site Monday, Hind charged that "for years Stratton sat on the Armed Services subcommittee on intelligence oversight and did nothing. Then in 1975 when Congress finally established a full committee to do the right job, Sam led the way to cripple it by having Rep. Michael Harrington (D-Mass) removed from it."

"One possible function of the local CIA is the so-called Domestic Contact Service. This branch of the CIA allegedly 'contacts' Americans returning from visits to socialist countries."

"The other part of CIA operations in Schenectady that hasn't been fully investigated is the CIA relationship to the General Electric Co.," Hind continued. "Evidence of the G.E.-CIA connection in Schenectady begins with the location that the CIA has chosen . . . directly next to and one floor below G.E. overseas sales offices which has moved recently to Rotterdam."

"Multinationals like G.E. are making record profits using the CIA to protect the jobs they're exporting overseas," Hind charged.

As evidence of his charges, Hind said he talked with a G.E. executive who refused to talk to a CIA representative after returning from a trip to China. Subsequently, the man's mail was tampered with, Hind said. He said he could not give the man's identification so the charges could be checked.